

REMARKS

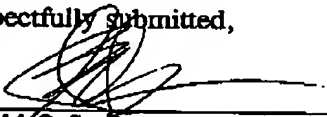
In paragraph 9 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5 to 8, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 5. Claim 1 is now directed to a metallic membrane comprising palladium. Dependent claim 5 has been cancelled. With the amendment of claim 1 to a metallic membrane comprising palladium, it is submitted that the remaining claims, which are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1, are allowable.

Favorable action and early allowance of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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